

## Message Text

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46

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USSS-00 SY-05 AID-05 FBIE-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 SAM-01 /078 W

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O P 071415Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5151

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

UNCLAS BEIRUT 8528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LE, PFOR

SUBJECT: LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN STATEMENTS ON KIDNAPPING

1. SUMMARY. OVER THE WEEKEND A NUMBER OF LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAVE ISSUED STRONGLY-WORDED DENUNCIATIONS OF THE KIDNAPPING PHENOMENON WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE THREE MONTHS OF INTERMITTENT VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT. ALL STATEMENTS ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AS A WHOLE BUT THEY ARE SUBMITTED AS BACKGROUND ATMOSPHERICS TO THE KIDNAPPING OF U.S. COLONEL MORGAN IN BEIRUT  
END SUMMARY.

2. WITH SOME LEBANESE NEWSPAPERS REPORTING UP TO 30 PERSONS STILL MISSING AFTER LATEST ROUND OF VIOLENCE IN LEBANON, A NUMBER OF LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAVE MADE STRONG STATEMENTS DENOUNCING THE KIDNAPPING PHENOMENON WHICH HAS OCCURRED BOTH DURING AND BETWEEN THE THREE OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE IN LEBANON OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS. WHILE ALL THE STATEMENTS ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AS A WHOLE, THEY HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE THE KIDNAPPING OF U.S. COLONEL MORGAN BECAME KNOWN. FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLING OF STATEMENTS AS REPORTED IN BEIRUT  
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DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE PAST THREE DAYS:

3. MARONITE OPPOSITION LEADERS/DEPUTY RAMOND EDDE AS REPORTED IN AN NAHAR OF JULY 4: QUOTE EDDE CONGRATULATED GOVERNMENT ON ITS SECURITY MEASURES AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT FRANJIEH TO ISSUE DECREE RESTORING DEATH PENALTY FOR ANYONE CARRYING OUT ACTS OF KIDNAPPING OR DETAINING PEOPLE FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS UNQUOTE.

4. SUNNI FORMER PRIME MINISTER 'ABDALLAH AL-YAFI AND HIS QUOTE AWAKENING MOVEMENT UNQUOTE AS REPORTED IN AN NAHAR OF JULY 5: QUOTE AWAKENING MOVEMENT DECIDED TO ... DEMAND PROSECUTION OF ANY PERSON ACCUSED OF COMMITTING ACTS OF VIOLENCE IETHER BY KIDNAPPING PEOPLE OR THREATENING OR FIRING AT THEM UNQUOTE.

5. DFLP AS REPORTED IN AN NAHAR JULY 5: QUOTE SPOKESMAN FOR PDFLP CONDEMNED ACTS OF KIDNAPPING AND CALLED ON RESISTANCE MOVEMENT TO FIGHT THEM AND EXPOSE THEIR INSTIGATORS UNQUOTE.

6. ZUHEIR MUHSIN ON BEHALF OF QUOTE PALESTINIAN GENERAL COMMAND UNQUOTE AS REPORTED IN AN NAHAR JULY 6: QUOTE PALESTINIAN GENERAL COMMAND MET UNDER LEADERSHIP OF YASIR 'ARAFAT AND IN PRESENCE OF REPS OF ALL FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF KIDNAPPING. MR. ZUHEIR MUHSIN, HEAD OF MILITARY DEPARTMENT, SAID PALESTINIAN GENERAL COMMAND STRONGLY CONDEMNS KIDNAPPING OF CIVILIANS IN LEBANON AND HAS SET UP COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ABU IYAD TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF KIDNAPPERS AND SEARCH FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL MISSING. UNQUOTE

7. FATAH LEADER ABU IYAD ON BEHALF OF QUOTE PALESTINIAN GENERAL COMMAND UNQUOTE REPORTED IN AN NAHAR JULY 6: QUOTE WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO EXECUTE ANY PERSON WHO IS INVOLVED IN A KIDNAPPING AND TRIES IN THIS WAY TO HARM PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AND PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE FRATERNITY. WE HAVE SOME INDICATIONS (REGARDING IDENTITY OF KIDNAPPERS), BUT WE CANNOT REVEAL THEM FOR THE TIME BEING. THESE PEOPLE ARE WORKING WITHIN SECRET NETWORK WHOSE PRINCIPAL AIM IS TO HARM RESISTANCE AND DRIVE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS TO KILL EACH OTHER. WE WILL STORM CERTAIN PLACES BY FORCE TO EFFECT RELEASE OF THOSE KIDNAPPED IF THEY ARE NOT RELEASED TODAY OR TOMORROW UNQUOTE  
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8. SUNNI FORMER PRIME MINISTER, OPPOSITION LEADER AND DEPUTY SAEB SALAM REPORTED IN AN NAHAR JULY 6: QUOTE MR. SALAM SAID THAT PALESTINIAN GENERAL COMMAND CONDEMNS SUCH UGLY ACTS AND WILL STRIKE THOSE PERPETRATING THEM WITH IRON HAND, EVEN TO THE POINT OF IMMEDIATELY EXECUTING ANYONE WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH ACTS IS PROVED.

9. QASIM QANSU, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF SYRIAN BAATH PARTY  
REPORTED IN AN NAHAR JULY 6: QUOTE QASIM QANSU ... VISITED MINISTER  
GHASSAN TUENI AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HOPES GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO  
PUT AN END TO ALL ACTS OF KIDNAPPING, BECAUSE THEY ARE ACTS OF  
INDIVIDUALS, AND THE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH  
THEM UNQUOTE

10. SUNNI PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAME REPORTED IN DAILY  
STAR JULY 7: QUOTE KARAME SAID HE REGRETTED KIDNAPPING OPERATIONS,  
INNER QUOTE WHICH WE CONSIDER AS ALIEN TO OUR SOCIETY,  
UNACCEPTABLE, AND SHAMEFUL. IN ANY CASE, WE ARE UNDERTAKING  
RELEASE OF ALL DETAINEES AND KIDNAPPED, INCLUDING AMERICAN  
COLONEL, AND HOPE WE WILL SUCCEED IN THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
END INNER AND OUTER QUOTE.  
GODLEY

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